

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02269 081540Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-10 L-03 MCE-00  
CIAE-00 NSC-05 /049 W  
-----061306 090334Z /64

R 071911Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7862  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
CSAF WASHDC/LGF

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2269

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, EC  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF AIM-9

1. ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) HAS INFORMALLY REQUESTED  
ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THE AIM-9 "SIDEWINDER" AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE  
WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ECUADOR. REQUEST IS FROM IG OF  
THE FAE, BG JORGE PENA, BUT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE BY SEVERAL LOWER  
LEVEL OPERATIONAL OFFICERS. PENA MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS  
SEEKING AN INFORMAL RESPONSE IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBILITY  
THAT US WOULD HAVE TO RESPOND FORMALLY IN THE NEGATIVE  
SHOULD OUR POLICY PROHIBIT SUCH A SALE.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FAE BOUGHT THE F-1 MIRAGE  
WITHOUT AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE PACKAGE AND THAT PENA HEADS  
A COMMISSION WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN ESTABLISHED TO IDENTIFY  
AND RECOMMEND TO THE FAE COMMAND THE BEST MISSILE COMPATIBLE  
WITH THE F-1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMISSION IS ALSO  
CONSIDERING THE FRENCH MAGIC AND MATRE MISSILES, AND PRESUME  
THEY WILL ALSO LOOK AT THE ISRAELISHAFRIR, AND  
PERHAPS OTHER MISSILES AS WELL. FAE OFFICIALS  
HAVE NOTED THAT THEY PARTICULARLY WANT THE AIM-9 IN THE  
COMPETITION BECAUSE OF ITS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO THE  
CHAPARRAL SAM MISSILE. THE GOE HAS A LETTER OF OFFER  
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FOR THE CHAPARRAL AND COMBINING THE AIM-9 WITH IT WOULD  
BE AN INTELLIGENT MOVE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MAINTENANCE  
AND LOGISTICS. PENA INDICATED THE FAE WOULD BE INTERESTED  
IN EVENTUALLY PURCHASING A MINIMUM OF 50 MISSILES, AND  
WE BELIEVE THE FINAL NUMBER COULD RUN AS HIGH AS 100.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THE DIFFICULTY

OF DETERMINING AVAILABILITY IN ABSENCE OF FORMAL REQUEST  
FOR A LETTER OF OFFER, THE EMBASSY SHARES THE FAE  
CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY WE MIGHT NEEDLESSLY INJURE OUR  
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BY HAVING TO DENY THE SALE FORMALLY  
AT SOME LATER DATE. THUS, WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE A  
GENERAL POLICY CONFIRMATION OF WHETHER THE USG WOULD  
SELL THE AIR-9 TO ECUADOR. IF ANSWER IS POSITIVE, MLO  
WOULD ADVISE PENA TO REQUEST A LETTER OF OFFER. WE WOULD  
ALSO APPRECIATE INDICATION OF WHICH VERSION OF AIR-9  
MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE. FAE IS AWARE THAT THE "J" IS THE  
OPERATIONAL USAF VERSION.  
CORR

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, PROCUREMENT, MISSILES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978QUITO02269  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780153-0465  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3040432  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF AIM-9  
**TAGS:** MASS, EC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/86fb34b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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